premium subsidy @ 50% which is to be phased out on sun-set basis in a period of three to five years subject to review of financial results of the scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Premium for cotton crop in Gujarat

2509. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the premium for cotton crop in Gujarat has been doubled in Kharif 2002 season, compared to Kharif 2001;

(b) whether there is a need to avoid such sharp increase in premium, which would adversely affect the interests of cotton farmers; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering any remedial measures to reduce the burden on the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The premium for cotton crop in Kharif 2001 was 5.05% which has been increased to 9.80% in Kharif 2002 season.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, this sharp increase or decrease in the premium rates is due to increase or decrease in the variability of the past yield data of the insured crop based on which actuarial rates are worked out.

(c) As the actuarial rates are worked out by the General Insurance Corporation of India based on the set methodology, therefore, they may come down in due course of time with the reduction in the variability of yield. However, the small and marginal farmers are provided premium subsidy to the extent of 50% on sun-set basis.

Foodgrains production in MP

†2510. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of foodgrains in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.